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26. (Amended) The imaging optical system of claim 25, further comprising:
a grating structure disposed on a face of the protuberance facing the object;
and
an illuminating beam defined by a light source and an illuminated field stop
having a plurality of openings, wherein an arrangement of said plurality of openings
correspond to and are imageable onto the grating structure.

Please add the following new claims:

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31.(New) The transducer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transducer is
optically coupled to an objective of the imaging optical system via a flexible immersion.

32. (New) The transducer as claimed in claim 31, wherein the flexible
immersion comprises an oil.

33. (New) The transducer as claimed in claim 31, wherein the flexible
immersion comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a transparent
elastic substance and a plastic substance.

34. (New) A transducer, in an imaging optical system, for generating optical
contrasts in the near-field representation of topographies of an object, comprising:

a substrate having a transparent plane-parallel protuberance corresponding to a
field size of the imaging optical system and pointing toward the object, wherein the
transducer outcouples evanescent waves from an underside of the transducer, wherein
the transducer underside is arranged in a focal plane of the imaging optical system, and
wherein a face of the protuberance comprises at least one of a grating structure, an
array of quantum point lasers, a dot structure arranged in grating-form, and a point stop
structure arranged in the form of a grating.

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35. (New) A transducer, in an imaging optical system, for generating optical contrasts in the near-field representation of topographies of an object, comprising:

a substrate having a transparent plane-parallel protuberance corresponding to a field size of the imaging optical system and pointing toward the object, wherein the transducer outcouples evanescent waves from an underside of the transducer, wherein the transducer underside is arranged in a focal plane of the imaging optical system, and wherein a face of the protuberance further comprises a layer applied thereon, wherein said layer comprises one of a material having a higher refractive index than a refractive index of the protuberance and a material having a higher resistance to scratching than the protuberance.

36. (New) A transducer, in an imaging optical system, for generating optical contrasts in the near-field representation of topographies of an object, comprising:

a substrate having a transparent plane-parallel protuberance corresponding to a field size of the imaging optical system and pointing toward the object, wherein the transducer outcouples evanescent waves from an underside of the transducer, and wherein the transducer underside is arranged in a focal plane of the imaging optical system; and

electrically conducting layers structured by fine dividing lines to form electric capacitors from contact between two respectively associated regions electrically insulated from one another that are disposed in an edge region on a face of the protuberance facing one of the object and an objective of the optical imaging system.